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Next Review Date: 2008

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

125867

COUNTRY Argentina/Italy

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Return of Father Zappaterreni to Argentina

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 7 November 1947

25X1A6a

PAGES 2

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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1. Father Eusebio Zappaterreni (also spelled Zappaterrini, Zappaterregni), an Italian Fascist priest who was ordered to leave Argentina in June of this year because of his blatant Fascist pronouncements, is reported to be back in Buenos Aires, living in the home of Professor (fnu) Altini, at Calle Pozos 270. It is said that Zappaterreni never actually left the country, but went first to Tartagal and then to Jujuy. At the latter city he stayed at the home of a wealthy Italian, (fnu) Tremontini. Zappaterreni came back to Buenos Aires about 4 October, and was expected to leave again for Jujuy on 15 October to enter a monastery in that city, but it was stated that he would return to Buenos Aires once more in about two or three months. [REDACTED] although he is supposed to be entering a monastery, Zappaterreni was not dressed in his religious habit. At the present time, Zappaterreni says that he is settling his differences with the Argentine Government. 25X1X6
2. Father Zappaterreni, who belongs to the Franciscan order, arrived in Argentina on 26 March, 1947 on the SS Argentina. He is a man of about 33 years of age, born in Rome. It is said that at the beginning of the war he was a Chaplain in the Giulia Alpine division and took part in battles in the Balkans, Russia, and Normandy. He was finally taken prisoner by the Yugoslavs in the Balkans, and then was abandoned as seriously wounded. Upon his return to Italy, he was decorated by the Italian Government, and subsequently became an ardent promoter of Mussolini's policies. Because of his work in disseminating Fascist propaganda, he was made a General in the Italian army, and later is said to have become Mussolini's close friend and confessor. Zappaterreni himself stated that he was with Mussolini during his last moments. The speech given in Argentina by Zappaterreni, which resulted in his expulsion, was a eulogy of Fascism and the Mussolini family, and a diatribe against democracy. 25X1X6
3. [REDACTED] Father Zappaterreni's purpose in Argentina is to form, with one Max Peroli, a nucleus of Fascists in the country who will be ready to return to Italy when the political situation there warrants it. The priest advised source that it would be unwise to return there at present, however, but he was sure that there would soon be a general uprising of the Italian people.
4. Max Peroli is allegedly a former Italian aviator who took part in the bombing of London in 1940. On 14 October, Peroli was to have seen President Peron to discuss the possibility of building shipyards in Bahia Blanca with Italian equipment and technicians with the thought of sending the proceeds to Italy

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to further the Italian Fascist cause. It is expected also that through this medium a number of Fascists could be brought into the country. Peroli told source that he will be leaving soon on a secret mission to Genoa for the Argentine Ministry of Marine. He will travel via the FAMA (Flota Aerea Mercante Argentina) airline.

[REDACTED]

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